

CalWORKs 60-Month Time Limit



CalWORKs 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT ON AID

Beginning January 1, 1998, an adult (parent, aided stepparent, and/or caretaker relative) can only receive 60 months (5 years) of cash aid from the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. This includes cash aid received from California or other states' Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

The 60-month time limit does **NOT** apply to:

- Children
- Child Care
- Medi-Cal Benefits
- Food Stamp Benefits
- Aid that was received from California or other states under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program before 1/1/98.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CalWORKs 60-MONTH TIME LIMIT

Time Limit Exemptions - "Clock Stoppers"

A month on cash aid does **not** count toward your CalWORKs 60-month time limit if at any time during that month **you are**:

- Disabled (*You must have medical proof of a disability that is expected to last at least 30 days.*)
- 60 years or older.
- Caring for an ill or incapacitated person living in your home, which impairs you from working or participating in welfare-to-work activities.
- Caring for a dependent child of the court or a child at risk of placement in foster care, which impairs you from working or participating in welfare-to-work activities.
- A victim of domestic abuse and the county has waived the 60-month time limit.
- Eligible for, or participating in, or exempt from Cal-Learn or another teen parent program approved by the California Department of Social Services. (*This exemption does not apply if you are age 19, eligible to volunteer to participate but you choose not to participate in Cal-Learn.*)
- Living in Indian Country, as defined by federal law, or an Alaskan native village, in which at least 50 percent of the adults are unemployed.

More "Clock Stoppers" to the CalWORKs 60-Month Time Limit

A month does **not** count if:

- You did not receive CalWORKs cash aid because your cash grant was less than \$10 or you were sanctioned, or for any other reason.
- Your cash grant is fully repaid by child support collection.
- You are only receiving supportive services such as child care, transportation, and case management.

For more information regarding time limits, see back page.

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Time Limit Exceptions - “Time Extenders”

When you have been aided for 60 months, you may get more cash aid, if **you** and **all** parents, aided stepparents, and/or caretaker relatives in the home are in one of the following situations:

- Caring for an ill or incapacitated person living in your home, which impairs you from working or participating in welfare-to-work activities.
- 60 years or older
- Caring for a dependent child of the court, or a child at risk of placement in foster care, which impairs you from working or participating in welfare-to-work activities.
- Evaluated by the county and are found to be unable to work or take part in welfare-to-work activities. This exception only applies when the adult has a history of cooperating with welfare-to-work rules.
- Not in the assistance unit (AU) for any reason other than reaching the 60-month time limit.
- Disabled and receiving certain types of disability benefits (State Disability Insurance, Workers Compensation Temporary Disability Insurance, In-Home Supportive Services, or State Supplementary Program benefits). This exception only applies if the disability impairs you from working or participating in welfare-to-work activities.

CalWORKs 60-Month Time Limit Waiver for Extending Aid

If you are a victim of domestic abuse and the county determined that your condition or situation impairs your ability to work or to participate in welfare-to-work activities, the county may waive the 60-month time limit, and you can get more than 60 months of aid.

Request for Exemption or Extender

If you have a condition that qualifies as an exemption or extender, contact your worker to request the exemption/extender. You may also contact your worker to find out how many months of aid you used.

Choosing to Leave Cash Aid

If your family is receiving a monthly cash grant that is a small amount, you may choose to decline the grant and leave cash aid so that the months will not count toward your CalWORKs 60-month time limit. This **will** save you some months for cash aid in the future. You should contact your worker to find out more information about leaving cash aid and if it will be beneficial to you.

Diversion

There are special time limit rules for diversion, which some applicants choose to get instead of on-going aid. The month that you get the diversion payment counts as one month toward the CalWORKs 60-month time limit, unless you reapply and get cash aid during the diversion period. In that case, you may choose to have all the months in the diversion period counted toward the 60-month time limit, or to repay the diversion payment by reducing your monthly cash grant.

RULES FOR OTHER STATES

Other states have different rules for the 60-month limit. If you have received TANF aid in another state - or if you plan to move to another state - you must contact that state to find out about the time limit requirements.